

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6024
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USINT BAGHDAD
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UR EG
SUBJECT: FAHMY-GROMYKO MEETING

REF: CAIRO 9680

SUMMARY. FAHMY AND GROMYKO POSITIVE ON INITIAL PRIVATE TALKS
ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. CAIRO PRESS EXPECTS "IMPORTANT RESULTS"
FROM MEETING TO BE HELD WITH BREZHNEV. MEETING TO EXPLORE BETTER
TRADE RELATIONS SCHEDULED. JOINT STATEMENT ON TALKS TO BE ISSUED
JUNE 11. EDITORIAL TREATMENT MORE UPBEAT BUT REplete WITH
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REMINDERS TO KEEP HANDS OFF EGYPT. END SUMMARY.

2. UNDER TWO-COLUMN HEADLINES, CAIRO PRESS CONTINUES COVERAGE
OF FAHMY-GROMYKO TALKS. REPORTS SAY TWO FONMINS MET FOR
THREE-HOUR PRIVATE SESSION JUNE 9, AT WHICH BILATERAL RELATIONS
WERE DISCUSSED "IN ATMOSPHERE OF FRANKNESS AND DESIRE FOR
PROGRESS." FAHMY DESCRIBED MEETING AS "GOOD BEGINNING" AND

GROMYKO QUOTED "WE DISCUSSED EVERYTHING AND WE EXHAUSTED OURSELVES IN TALKS. WE TALKED AND TALKED." SECOND PRIVATE SESSION EXPECTED JUNE 10 A.M.

2. MEETING OF FULL DELEGATIONS WAS HELD FOLLOWING TETE-A-TETE. EGYPTIAN SPOKESMAN SAID MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, INTERNATIONAL SITUATION IN GENERAL, BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND DEVELOPMENTS IN ISRAEL SINCE LIKUD VICTORY WERE EXAMINED. ACCORDING TO SPOKESMAN, TWO SIDES STRESSED NECESSITY FOR SPEEDY SETTLEMENT TO ME CRISIS, PLO PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA AND HASTENED PREPARATIONS FOR CONFERENCE.

3. STILL TO COME ARE SECOND PRIVATE FAHMY-GROMYKO MEETING AND SESSION WITH BREZHNEV, FROM WHICH PRESS EXPECTS "IMPORTANT RESULTS." MEETING "TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES TO TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS" ALSO SCHEDULED. TWO SIDES HAVE AGREED TO ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT ON RESULTS OF FAHMY VISIT EVENING OF JUNE 11.

4. EDITORIAL TREATMENT MORE UPBEAT TODAY, BALANCING AFFIRMATIONS OF BOTH SIDES' DESIRES FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH QUIET REMINDERS THAT EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY INVIOABLE. AHAM NOTED CLOSE HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL TIES BETWEEN SOVIETS AND ARAB WORLD, "CONFIRMED THROUGH CONSEQUENT POSITIVE SOVIET STANDS AND ITS AID AND SUPPORT OF ARAB COUNTRIES. SOVIETS ALSO PLAYING POSITIVE ROLE IN SEARCH FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT." DESPITE "FLUCTUATION IN THE THERMOMETER OF RELATIONS FOR VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES AND REASONS, BOTH SIDES HAVE ALWAYS HELD DEEP CONVICTION THAT GAP MUST BE BRIDGED AND AREAS OF UNDERSTANDING BROADENED. FRIENDSHIP WITH SOVIET UNION ESPECIALLY CRITICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOW, WHILE FUTURE OF REGION BEING DETERMINED."

5. AKHBAR DESCRIBED PRESENT TALKS AS REFLECTION OF GENUINE DESIRE TO SURMOUNT DIFFERENCES AND CLAIMED THAT POINTS OF ARGUMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND USSR "FAR EXCEED POINTS OF DIFFERENCES." EGYPTIAN POLICY, HOWEVER, "EMANATES FROM ABSOLUTE INDISPUTABLE RIGHT TO DEFINE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLICIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS...RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS ARE TWO BASES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP...EVERY PARTY MUST RESPECT OTHERS RIGHTS IN DEFINING DOMESTIC AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS IN COMPLETE FREEDOM." GUMHURIYYA EDITORIALIZED THAT COORDINATION OF STANDS BETWEEN ARABS AND THEIR ALLIES PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF VICTORY OF "EXTREMIST RIGHT WING LIKUD" AND OF US AND SOVIET COORDINATION OF APPROACH TO ME PROBLEMS. EGYPTIAN INTERESTS, ACCORDING TO PAPER, CALL FOR SEARCH FOR SIMILAR AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS.

6. COMMENT: EDITORIAL TREATMENT SUGGESTS THAT EGYPTIANS WANT

TO KEEP ATMOSPHERE AS CLOUD-FREE AS POSSIBLE AND GIVE TALKS
BEST CHANCE FOR SUCCESS. THEY SEEM SOMEWHAT HEARTENED BY RESULTS
OF FIRST DAY, PARTICULARLY GROMYKO WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS AT
LENGTH BILATERAL RELATIONS, TO WHICH SOVIETS HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT
TO GIVE PRIORITY THUS FAR. SIMILAR INDICATIONS ARE AGREEMENT
ON ISSUANCE OF JOINT STATEMENT, IMPLYING THAT EGYPTIANS
BELIEVE THERE WILL BE SOMETHING TO ANNOUNCE, AND STATED EXPECT-
ATIONS OF "IMPORTANT RESULTS" FROM MEETING WITH BREZHNEV.

7. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT EGYPTIAN PROPENSITY FOR WISHFUL
THINKING WILL BE ALLOWED TO PREVAIL, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF
SADAT'S OWN DEEP-SEATED SUSPICIONS. EVEN IN MORE UPBEAT TREATMENT,
CAUTION IS STILL KEYNOTE, AS EVIDENCED BY MODEST HEADLINES AND
SUSTAINED, IF MORE GENTLE, ADMONITIONS TO SOVIETS THAT EGYPTIANS
WILL ACCEPT NO STRINGS ON IMPROVED RELATIONS.
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